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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [AORC](#) [UNGA](#)
SUBJECT: UNGA: AMBASSADOR KHALILZAD VOICES CONCERN TO PGA
ABOUT HIS OPENING SESSION REMARKS

REF: USUN NEW YORK 831

Classified By: Ambassador Alex Wolff for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador Khalilzad met September 18 with UN General Assembly President (PGA) Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann to express concern with the PGA's opening session speech that included direct and mildly-veiled jabs at the United States (reftel). Ambassador Khalilzad said the PGA's speech looked backwards rather than forwards, contrary to the PGA's earlier commitments, and criticized the U.S. several times. Ambassador Khalilzad stressed that the PGA represents all Member States, including the United States, and that his job was to bring the membership together, not divide it. Ambassador Khalilzad referred to his previous challenging assignments to countries with many tribes and noted that the PGA had a difficult job here as well, representing 192 different tribes. He said that he hoped he could count on the PGA to approach his new responsibilities in this spirit.

¶2. (C) The PGA responded that he understood that his remarks had been perceived as "slanted." He said he would take Ambassador Khalilzad's comments as coming from a friend and would make sure that in the future no one misconstrues what he says. He said he looked forward to working with the Ambassador and stressed, "You and I do not aspire to a different thing." In a pull-aside at the end, d'Escoto assured Khalilzad that he was not going to give the same speech at the opening of the General Debate on September 23 but something shorter. He also said he would show due respect to President Bush.

¶3. (SBU) Also present in the meeting were Chief of Staff Norman Miranda and Senior Advisors Magda Enriquez and Paul Oquist, all from the PGA's office.

¶4. (C) Bio note: At the start of the meeting, the PGA directed Ambassador Khalilzad's attention to a set of three icons he had hung behind his desk. He described the three individuals as his primary influences. The icons were of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Day of New York. Hanging on the opposite wall was a picture of Tolstoy whom he said he quotes in every speech, including the opening session speech where he referenced Tolstoy's "mad selfishness." The PGA appeared healthy but wears two hearing aids. He did say that he suffers from sudden bouts of vertigo and hoped they would not come at important moments of his presidency. End bio note.
Khalilzad